

REMARKS

Applicants file this amendment supplemental to the amendments filed on January 10, 2008 and February 15, 2008. This amendment contains additional remarks and amendments to the claims to further support the patentability of the present application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the January 10, 2008 amendment, the February 15, 2008 amendment, and the present amendment. All of the remarks and arguments included with the January 10, 2008 reply and the February 15, 2008 reply are incorporated by reference herein.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-15 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 13-15 have been added. The present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed.

Specifically, support for the amendment to claim 1 occurs in claim 4 and in the present specification at page 9, lines 15-33 as well as Figures 4-5.

Further, support for newly added claim 13 can be found in the present specification at page 9, lines 6-11. Support for newly added claim 14 can be found in the present specification at page 16, lines 12-15. Support for newly added claim 15 can be found in the present specification at page 14, lines 28-30 and page 16, line 24. No new matter has been added. Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

The Present Invention and Its Advantages

The present invention relates to an absorbent article with a pattern and a process of producing the same.

As recited in amended claim 1, the present invention has several advantageous effects. First, the absorbent article of the present invention has a pictorial pattern clearly seen from the outside and can be produced from a reduced number of constituent members at reduced cost. (page 3, lines 26-28 of the specification). Second, since the cut fragments of elastic members are formed by pressing elastic members of continuous length together with the patterned sheet and the outer sheet with a pressing member having projections providing dots, the patterned sheet and the outer sheet are brought into close contact to each other, thereby securing clear see-through visibility of the pattern.

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues in this application have been fully addressed and that the claims are in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of pending claims 1-2 and 4-15 are allowed and patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

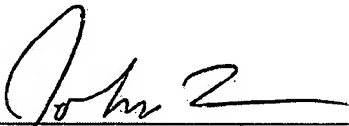
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881)

at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 6, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John W. Bailey

Registration No.: 32,881

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant.